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December 15, 1999

Assistant Secretary John Berry
c/o Document Management Unit
The Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW Mailstop-7229
Washington, D.C. 20240
Fax 202-219-1790

Dear Assistant Secretary Berry,

The three treaties between the US and the Hawaiian nation in effect at the time a group of US citizens overthrew it's monarchy under threat of war in 1893, clearly demonstrates that the US violated it own Constitution by aiding, supporting, and ratifying the theft of a nation. Moral, legal and economic remedies are required but not in the realm of US domestic law. Rather, the Department of State should take this up with the United Nations. The central issue here is violation of international law as the treaties in effect at the time of the overthrow was the first obligation of our country to honor.


President Clinton's 1993 apology to the Hawaiian people was long overdo and does nothing to restore the Hawaiian state to what it was before the illegal invasion and annexation. We believe that damages are a factor in reparation as is appropriate restitution and complete acknowledgement of the Kingdom of Hawaii.

It is quite clear that the indigenous Hawaiian people have not in the intervening 100 plus years since forced annexation given up their claims of international independence as a people over their own national lands.

As far as we see the issue remains to be decided within the principle that international obligations survive and supercede restrictions imposed by domestic law under the auspices of the UN charter.

We wish to submit our testimony to the record and trust you will give it all due consideration.

With all sincerity,


Susan and Harry Betancourt
